REMARKS

In the Office Action, independent Claims 1 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,218,455 (Kristy) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,393,206 (Yagi) and U.S. Patent No. 5,978,559 (Quinion). Independent Claim 35 was rejected under § 103(a) over Kristy, Yagi and Quinion in view of U.S. Patent 5,764,870 (Manico). The remaining claims are dependent, and were rejected as above, or further in view of one or more of the following: U.S. Patent No. 6,031,976 (Koakutsu); U.S. Patent 5,930,465 (Bellucco); U.S. Patent 6,289,416 (Fukushima); U.S. Patent No. 6,421,782 (Yanagisawa); "*Inside Adobe Photoshop*" (Bouton, et al); U.S. 6,085,195 (Hoyt); U.S. Patent No. 5,949,411 (Doerr); and official notice. These rejections are traversed, for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1 and 34

The invention of Claims 1 and 34 generally concerns authoring a plurality of digital image records. A plurality of digital images corresponding to a customer order are obtained over a first data path and combined into a record image. The record image is transmitted over a second data path for recording onto a medium. The transfer of the plurality of digital images over the first data path and the transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

According to one aspect of the invention, a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for record images, and a queue for print files are each continuously polled in parallel.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to improve throughput of printing and recording images by continuously checking for data required for a printing process and for an image recording process, including data to be transferred via the first or second data paths.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system including a dedicated computer having a computer processor. The method includes a scanning step to transmit a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to the computer processor. The first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses. The method further includes a processing step to process the plurality of digital images by the computer processor and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a record image. The processing step includes displaying a user interface that allows a user to select images from the plurality of digital images, displaying a user interface that allows the user to adjust the selected images, and combining the adjusted images into the record image. The method additionally includes a writing step to transmit the record image over a second data path from the computer processor to an image-recorder for recording onto a medium, wherein the second data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, and wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses. The scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the writing step, to transmit a new

plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order over the first data path, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths. In addition, a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for record images, and a queue for print files are each continuously polled in parallel.

Independent Claim 34 is directed to a method generally corresponding to Claim 1, and also specifies that the record image, which is passed from the dedicated computer to the image-recorder, is passed at a constant rate.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 34, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of continuously polling each of a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for record images, and a queue for print files, in parallel.

In this regard, page 4 of the Office Action concedes that Kristy does not disclose continuously polling each of a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for record images, and a queue for print files, in parallel.

Nevertheless, the Office Action relies on Quinion (Figure 5, Column 6, lines 23 to 32, Column 8, lines 8 to 19 and Column 10, lines 1 to 12) for this feature.

As understood by Applicants, Quinion is directed to a user interface for use with a network server having first and second queues respectively communicating with first and second document processing devices. The user interface can display the number of jobs in the first or second queue, and a job set can be transferred from the first queue to the second queue while the second queue is in a closed state. See Quinion, Abstract.

However, the cited portions of Quinion simply disclose queues for different stages of print files, and do not suggest applying continuous parallel polling to a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders and a queue for record images which include digital images adjusted by a user. See Quinion, Figure 5, Column 6, lines 23 to 32, Column 8, lines 8 to 19 and Column 10, lines 1 to 12.

In this regard, page 4 of the Office Action relies on Kristy for a queue corresponding to record images. However, Kristy is not seen to disclose or suggest such a queue, much less polling the queue. In fact, Kristy is not seen to mention queues at all.

Therefore, Kristy and Quinion are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of continuously polling each of a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for record images, and a queue for print files, in parallel.

Yagi, Manico, Koakutsu, Bellucco, Fukushima, Yanagisawa, Bouton, Hoyt and Doerr have been reviewed and are not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Kristy and Quinion.

Therefore, independent Claims 1 and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Claim 35

Independent Claim 35 is directed to a method for authoring a plurality of digital image CD-ROMs, each digital image CD-ROM corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image CD-ROM authoring system including a dedicated computer having a computer processor. The method includes a scanning step to transmit a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path

from a scanner to the computer processor, wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and an adjusting step to adjust each of the plurality of digital images which were scanned in from the scanner. The adjusting step includes displaying a user interface that allows a user to select images from the plurality of digital images, and displaying a user interface that allows the user to adjust the selected images. The method further includes a generating step to generate a print index file including a thumbnail representation of each of the adjusted images, the print index file for printing by a printer, a processing step to process the plurality of digital images and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a CD-ROM image, wherein the processing step includes combining the adjusted images into the record image, and a CD-writing step to transmit the CD-ROM image over a second data path from the computer processor to a CD-recorder for recording onto a CD-ROM, wherein the second data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses. The scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the CD-writing step, to transmit a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order over the first data path, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths, the processing step is repeated to process the new plurality of digital images and to combine the processed new plurality of digital images into a new CD-ROM image, and the CD-writing step is repeated to transmit the new CD-ROM image to a new CD-ROM placed in the CD-recorder after

completion of the CD-writing step for the previous CD-ROM image. A queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for CD-ROM images, and a queue for print files are each continuously polled in parallel.

As discussed above, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of continuously polling each of a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for record images, and a queue for print files, in parallel. Applicants respectfully submit that it logically follows that the applied art therefore also can not disclose or suggest continuously polling each of a queue for job files corresponding to customer orders, a queue for CD-ROM images, and a queue for print files, in parallel.

Accordingly, independent Claim 35 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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